

# **PARKING ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

## **APRIL 15, 2014 MEETING**

**I. Meeting Called to Order at 6:03 PM by Chair Welles Guilmartin; City Hall Parking Services Office;**

**Present Committee Members:**

Sandra Driska Russo, Peter Harding, Welles Guilmartin, Marie Kalita Leary, Jen Alexander, Marc Levin

**Others Present**

Geen Thazhampallath-Parking Director, Alex Grec (Middletown Press)

**II. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

**VOTE APPROVED 4-0**, Minute approval for Feb 2014 meeting; ML motion, Harding 2nd. SDR & MKL Abstain.

**III. Public Session for Agenda Items**

None

**VOTE APPROVED 6-0**, Motion to move item New Business to the start of the meeting enabling SDR to attend another Council meeting. Harding Motion and MKL 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**IV. New Business: a)** Committee discussed a request from Economic Development Commission to support a potential upcoming engagement with a developer selected by EDC to study Metro Square, the Arcade Site, and ADT sites. The study would include a parking analysis. The director informed the committee that it had two alternatives. One to utilize the parking fund, which has the resources or two, to utilize the remainder, after the repair project, of any funds left of the \$125,000 appropriation made in November 2013. Member Driska-Russo spoke to the potentiality of the project and thoroughness of the potential developers presentation to EDC. The committee felt such use of the parking fund was unwarranted and and voted against such usage of the parking fund. Committee members felt the funds in the parking fund were intended for infrastructure and other material parking improvements. Also with several other projects in the pipeline for parking, all resources should be saved. However, the committee did see value in the study and felt that usage of any remaining funds of the repair arcade appropriation should be utilized.

**VOTE APPROVED 5-0**, Motion to reject the EDC request to expend parking funds on the EDC proposal. Harding Motion and ML 2<sup>nd</sup>. SDR abstain.

**VOTE APPROVED 5-0**, Motion to support the EDC request to expend or transfer funds to appropriate city lines any remaining funds, specifically \$30,000 but not limited to \$30,000, for the EDC proposal from the remainder of the 11/4/2013 arcade repair appropriation.

**b)** Committee members discussed the F&G request to examine the revenue generation opportunities through parking. The director shared revenue ideas to increase parking revenues. The committee felt the council should view parking as an asset to the city not just as a revenue point. Significant concerns were shared by ML and JA that it could be detrimental to downtown retail and business. The felt the timing of any rate changes to meters or to lots or any free time reduction could harm downtown. They discussed the need to share their thoughts at the public hearing in April. The director shared that he must still take his ideas to F&G per their request.

**VOTE APPROVED 5-0**, Motion to reject any rate, time or revenue generation ideas. PH 1<sup>st</sup>, MKL 2<sup>nd</sup>. SDR departed meeting at 6:25 prior to vote.



**V. Chairmen's and Director's Reports –**

a. **Communications:** none

b. **Summary Reports:** Director shared Quarterly Revenue, Expense, PKFund Balance,  
**Budget Reports:** Director stated budget process will happen in April and May.

c. **Vendor Relations:**

i. Director explained that LPR technology was on hold. Committee members urged the director to go visit sites which are currently using the technology.

d. **Government or Community Relations:** None

**VI. Old Business.** Director stated the expected time line for a Nov 2014 referendum on the garage. Members felt surprised and expressed that it might not pass.

**VII. Adjournment** 7:20PM; Marie Kalita Leary, Marc Levin 2nd. Unanimous.